GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1456
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in poverty in rural areas particularly the backward and tribal areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve this problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) to (c) : As per the estimates of rural poverty (of the Planning Commission), the percentage of people living below the poverty line in Maharashtra has declined from 57.71 percent in 1973-74 to 37.93 percent in 1993-94, the year for which latest estimates are available. While poverty estimates have not, separately, been made by the Planning Commission for backward / tribal areas, the poverty ratio for the Scheduled Tribes population in the rural areas of Maharashtra has been estimated at 50.58% for 1993-94.

The Ministry of Rural Development implements the following programmes, among others, for employment generation, poverty alleviation and assisting people below poverty line in the rural areas of the country, including Maharashtra:

a) Employment Assurance Scheme
b) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana
c) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
d) Indira Awaas Yojana
e) National Social Assistance Programme